

Senate Finance Budget Subcommittee
Judiciary
Fiscal Year 2026

March 5, 2025

Agency Graphs

Judiciary

Total General Fund Budget

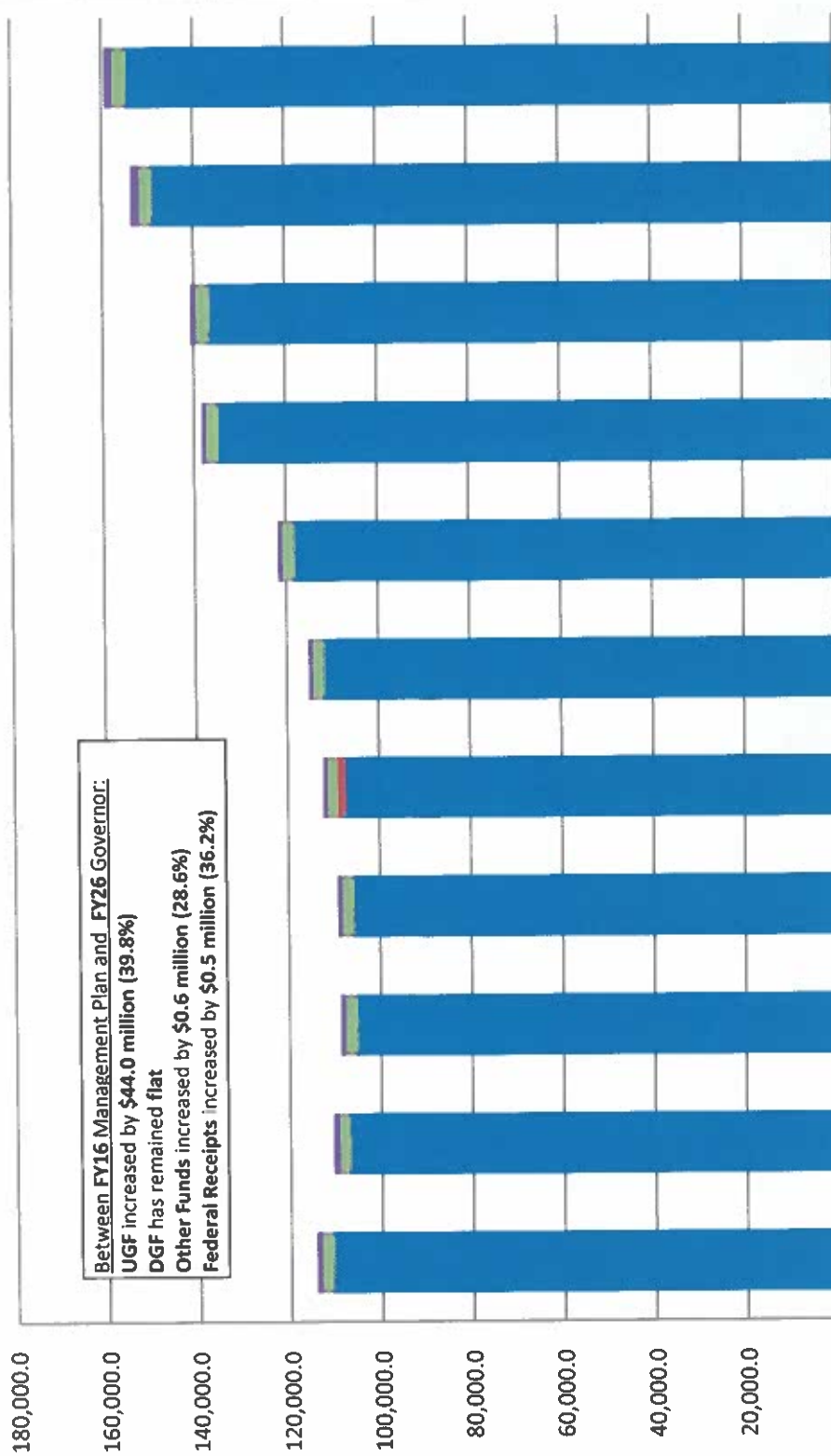
(\$ Thousands)



Judiciary

Total Funding Comparison by Fund Group

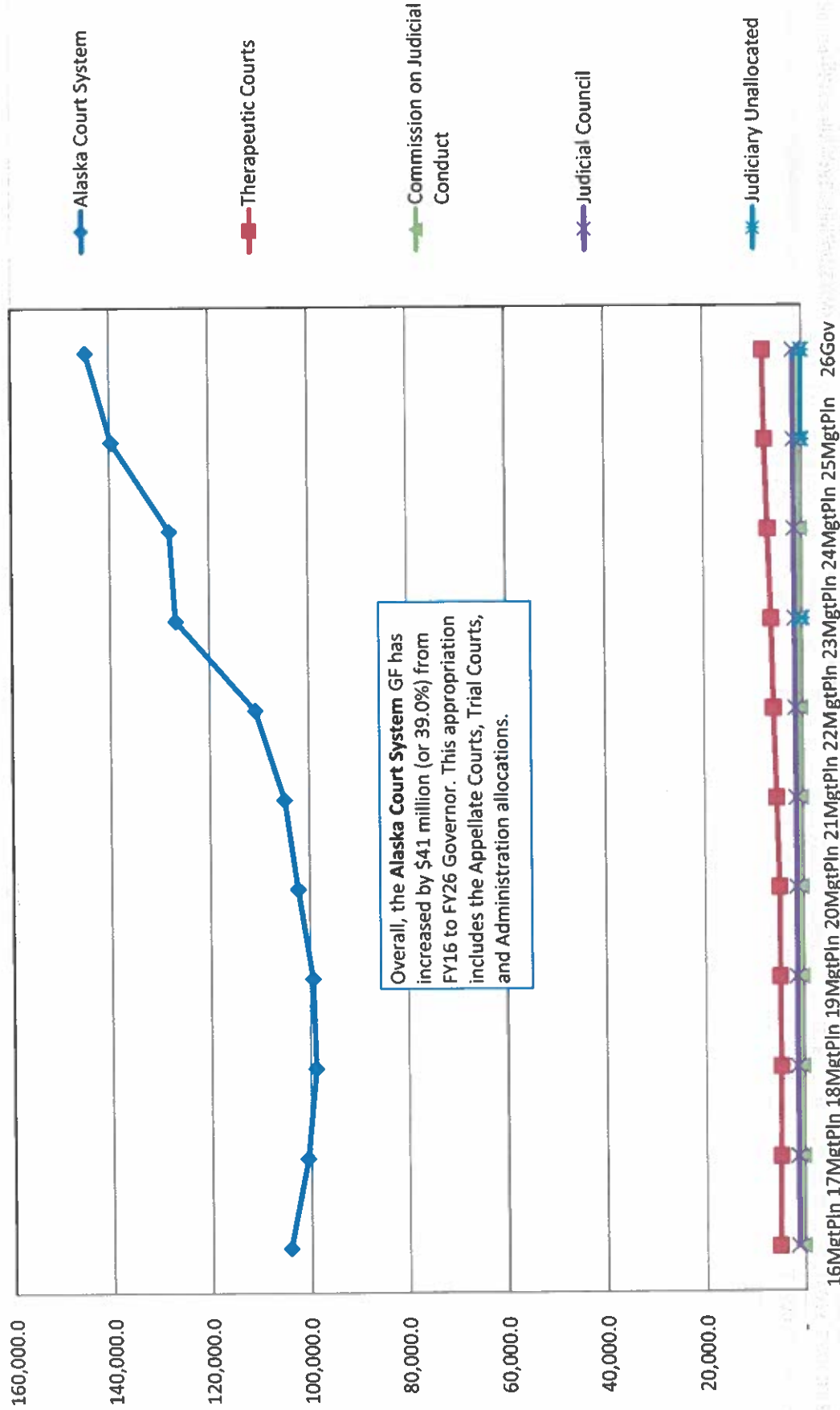
(\$ Thousands)



	16MgtPln	17MgtPln	18MgtPln	19MgtPln	20MgtPln	21MgtPln	22MgtPln	23MgtPln	24MgtPln	25MgtPln	26Gov
Federal Receipts (Fed)	1,325.6	1,325.6	1,225.6	975.6	975.6	975.6	975.6	975.6	1,280.3	1,805.3	1,805.3
Other State Funds (Other)	2,107.0	1,982.0	2,206.1	2,206.1	2,206.1	2,206.1	2,246.1	2,246.1	2,531.1	2,530.0	2,710.0
Designated General (DGF)	518.0	518.0	518.0	518.0	1,716.5	518.0	518.0	518.0	518.0	518.0	518.0
Unrestricted General (UGF)	110,402.9	106,613.6	104,838.6	105,444.9	107,213.7	111,486.4	117,961.6	134,522.4	136,333.7	148,772.5	154,354.4

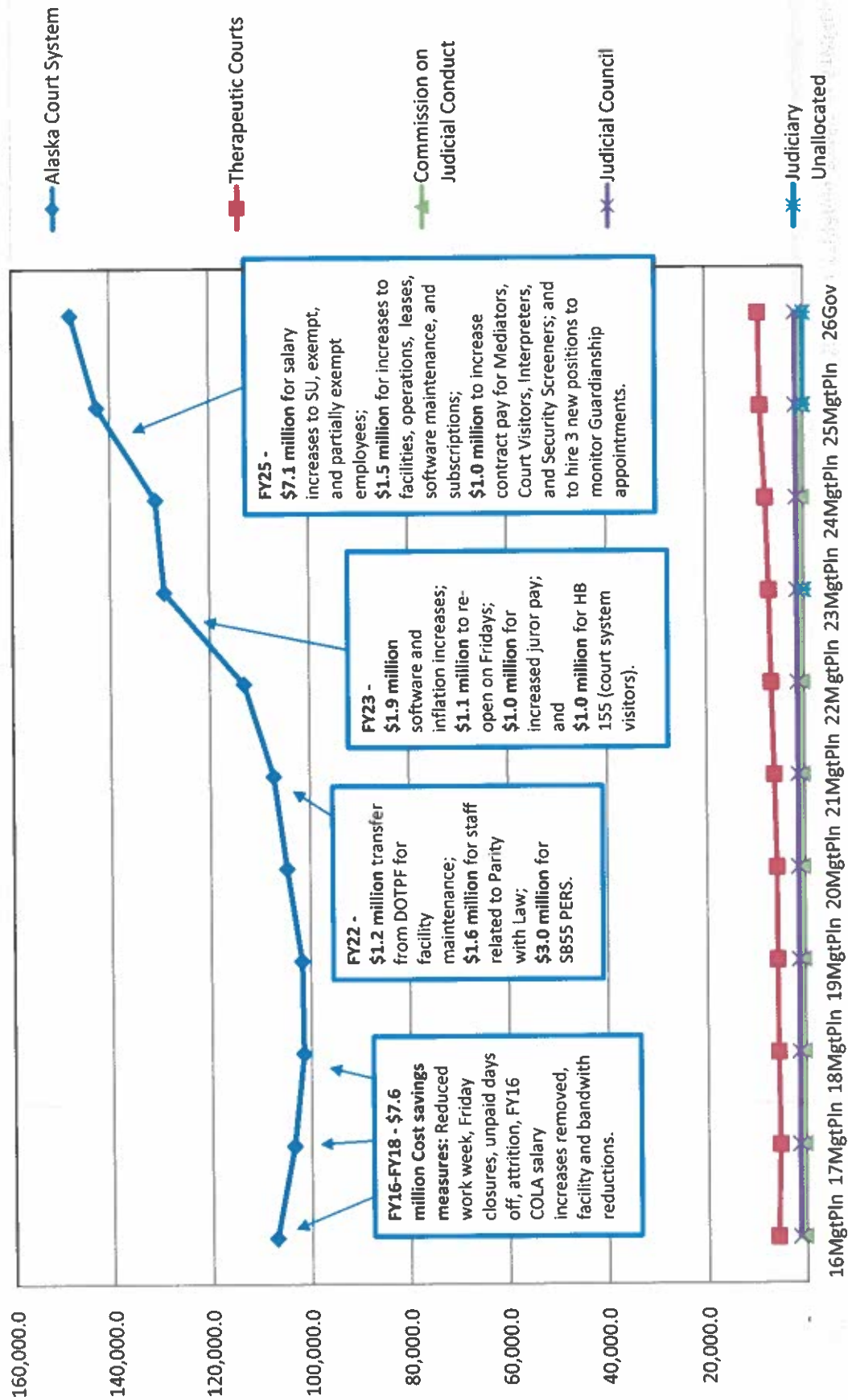
Appropriations within Judiciary

(GF Only)
(\$ Thousands)

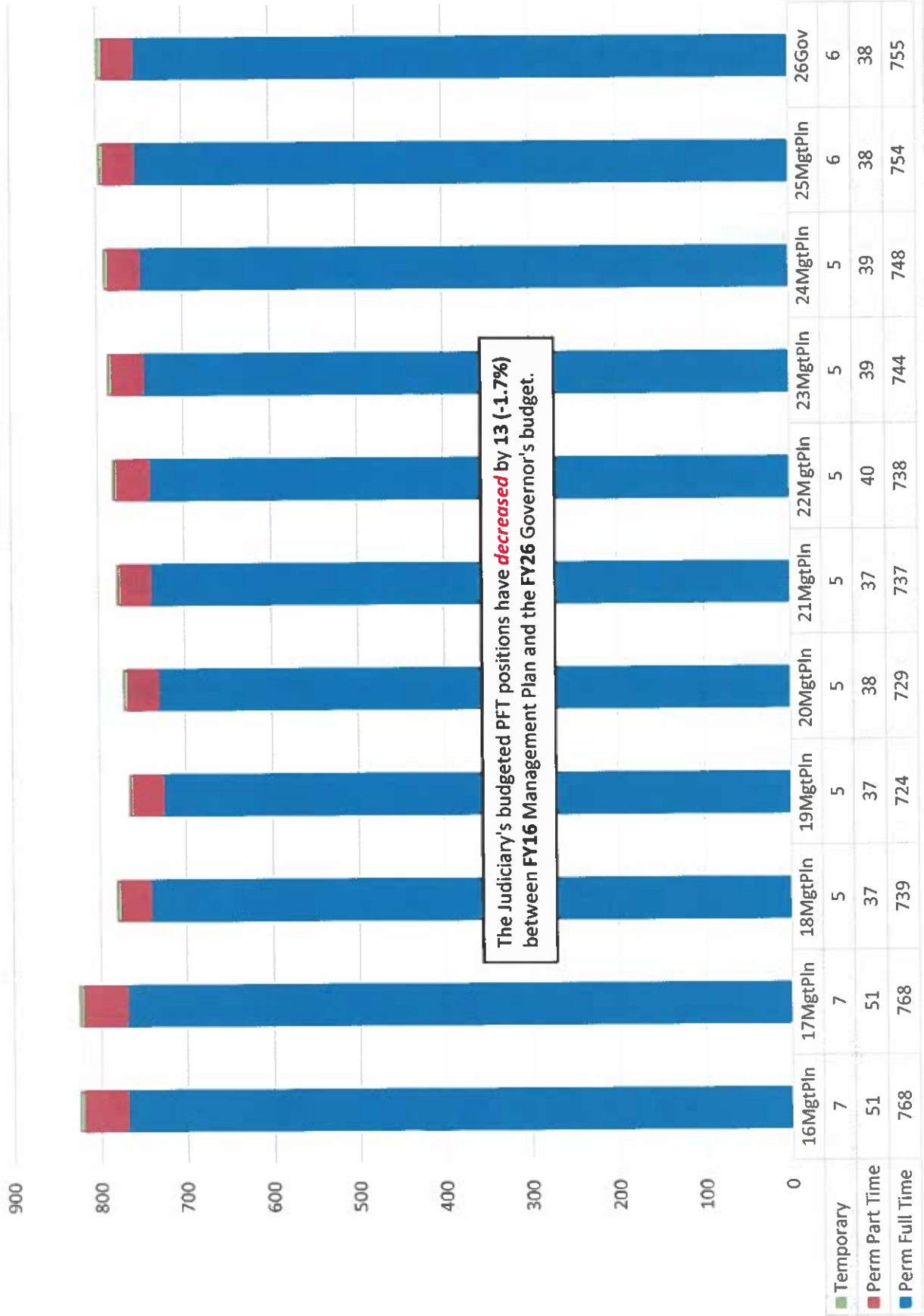


Appropriations within Judiciary

(All Funds)
(\$ Thousands)



Budgeted Positions in the Judiciary



Judiciary Budget by Line Item

180,000.0

160,000.0

140,000.0

120,000.0

100,000.0

80,000.0

60,000.0

40,000.0

20,000.0

Personal Services funding has increased by 40.3% from FY16 to FY26, while all other lines items have increased by 36.8% over the same period.

	16MgtPln	17MgtPln	18MgtPln	19MgtPln	20MgtPln	21MgtPln	22MgtPln	23MgtPln	24MgtPln	25MgtPln	26Gov
7 Grants, Benefits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 Capital Outlay	137.4	137.4	62.6	62.6	53.4	62.6	62.6	786.0	62.6	62.6	62.6
4 Commodities	2,591.6	2,441.6	1,981.6	1,985.6	1,988.4	2,030.6	2,014.6	2,196.9	2,054.6	2,090.6	2,090.6
3 Services	25,195.4	24,752.2	23,230.1	23,341.1	23,803.8	24,415.6	26,058.9	30,681.4	32,192.2	34,923.6	36,033.3
2 Travel	1,393.6	1,323.6	1,323.6	1,473.6	1,541.6	1,544.8	1,574.4	1,609.4	1,640.7	1,736.1	1,767.1
1 Personal Services	85,035.5	81,784.4	82,190.4	82,281.7	84,724.7	87,132.5	91,990.8	102,988.4	104,633.0	114,812.9	119,275.8

Program Priority Statutes

Courts Program Priority Table

10/14/2021

11

Program	Constitutional Requirement	Federal Requirement	Statutory Req.	# of Alaskans Served	% Cost Through Fees
Alaska Court System:					
Appellate Courts	Yes				
Trial Courts	Yes				
Administration			Yes		
Therapeutic Courts			Yes		
Commission on Judicial Conduct	Yes				
Alaska Judicial Council	Yes				7%

FY26 Budget Issues

Judiciary
FY25 - Summary of Significant Budget Issues
(\$ thousands)

Item	Appropriation / Allocation	Description	Governor Request	Amount Enacted	Comment
1	Alaska Court System / Appellate Courts	Appellate Court Travel	\$38.2 Gen Fund (UGF) Inc	\$38.2 Gen Fund (UGF) Inc	This increment will pay for increased travel costs to Anchorage for judges and staff based outside of Anchorage. Travel occurs for oral arguments, case conferences, training, and annual orientation of law clerks. The FY24 Appellate Court travel budget is \$95.5, while FY23 Actuals for travel were \$140.8. This increment will make the FY25 travel budget \$133.7, which is more in line with recent actuals.
2	Alaska Court System / Trial Courts	Facilities Operating and Maintenance Cost Increases	\$448.0 Gen Fund (UGF) Inc	\$495.3 Gen Fund (UGF) Inc	The Court System's FY24 facilities budget totals approximately \$10 million and included an increase of \$585.4 allocated as follows: \$143.5 for leases; \$166.8 for utilities, \$88.0 for janitorial/ snowplowing/ window washing, and \$187.1 for Division of Facilities Services (DFS) Service Level Agreements. The Governor's FY25 budget included increases of \$98.0 for inflation adjustments to leases, \$100.0 for additional utilities/ service contracts/ maintenance and an estimated \$250.0 for a DFS Service Level Agreement increase. Revisions were provided by the agency during session decreasing the DFS costs by \$3.7, increasing an amount for the Juneau Dimond Court House by \$66.4, and decreases for leases to Skagway and Hooper Bay court houses by \$15.4 and \$101.2, respectively. The legislature accepted these revisions other than the reduction for the Hooper Bay lease which resulted in a net increase of \$47.3 to the budget.
3	Alaska Court System / Trial Courts	Software Maintenance and Subscriptions	\$957.1 Gen Fund (UGF) Inc	\$957.1 Gen Fund (UGF) Inc	The Court System's FY24 budget for information technology services totals over \$9.5 million and includes 35 positions made up of programmers, database administrators, network specialists and help desk technicians along with approximately \$3.9 million for software licensing, subscriptions, hosting and software maintenance. This increment will increase the total for the non-personal services costs to nearly \$5 million in FY25. A large portion (\$575.0) of the increment is attributable to the Court System's VMware virtual servers.
4	Alaska Court System / Trial Courts	Court Visitor Program to Recent Actuals/ Projections	\$127.4 Gen Fund (UGF) Inc	\$127.4 Gen Fund (UGF) Inc	Court Visitors are investigators in guardianship and conservatorship cases who provide information to the judicial officer about the protected person's status regarding medical treatment, housing, education, and finances. In 2022, HB 155 (Ch. 21, SLA 2022) transferred responsibility of the Court Visitor Program from the Office of Public Advocacy to the Alaska Court System. With the transfer came a new position (to oversee the training,

Judiciary
FY25 - Summary of Significant Budget Issues
(\$ thousands)

Item	Appropriation / Allocation	Description	Governor Request	Amount Enacted	Comment
9	Therapeutic Courts / Therapeutic Courts	Treatment Counseling Services/ Supervision and Urinalysis Testing Cost Increases	\$265.6 GF/MH (UGF) Inc	\$265.6 GF/MH (UGF) Inc	The FY24 budget for Therapeutic Courts treatment services was \$1,218.3. The Court System projects that the demand for these services and the costs to provide them will increase in FY25 by \$243.7 (a 20% increase) and additional funding has been included as a result. Likewise for urinalysis (UA) testing, the FY24 budget includes \$168.8 for UA supervision and testing supplies. Both of these costs are expected to increase in FY25, with an additional \$21.9 (13%) included in the budget.
10	Therapeutic Courts / Therapeutic Courts	Juneau Mental Health Court - 50% of Costs for Project Coordinator and Probation Officer (Cost Share with MH Trust)	n/a	\$126.1 GF/MH (UGF) Inc	This item was excluded in the Governor's budget, but was included in the Mental Health Trust's recommended budget and the budget request of the Judiciary. The legislature added the funding which is to pay for 50% of the costs of the Project Coordinator and Probation Officer located in Juneau. A Judicial Officer and administrative staff for the program are already included in the Therapeutic Courts budget.
11	Commission on Judicial Conduct / Commission on Judicial Conduct	Increased Costs for Travel	\$7.5 Gen Fund (UGF) Inc	\$7.5 Gen Fund (UGF) Inc	The Commission on Judicial Conduct requested a \$7.5 UGF travel cost adjustment that was approved for the FY25 budget. Vetoed Legislative Addition: The legislature also included an additional \$5.0 UGF for travel, but this was vetoed by the Governor.

FY25 Mid-Year Status

Judiciary
FY25 Midyear Status Report

Item No.	Appropriation / Allocation	Description	Amount / Fund Source	LFD Questions
1	Alaska Court System / Trial Courts	Facilities Operating and Maintenance Cost Increases	\$495.3 Gen Fund (UGF) Inc	Was the lease for the Hooper Bay Courthouse maintained?
Agency Response The lease with the former landlord terminated and the courthouse will move into the Hooper Bay National Guard Armory facility by the end of FY2025. The court system FY2026 budget request includes a \$50,000 base budget reduction to reflect the lower lease cost for the Armory facility compared to the former lease cost.				
2	Alaska Court System / Trial Courts	Increased Pay for Contract Mediators, Court Visitors, and Interpreters for Recruitment and Retention	\$346.5 Gen Fund (UGF) Inc	Has the increased pay for these contract court professionals been implemented and has there been a positive impact on recruitment and retention? Please describe how the funding has been distributed between the Mediators, Court Visitors and Interpreters and when that occurred or is planned to occur.
Agency Response The rates paid to the court contractors performing this work were increased on 7/1/2024. Based on projected spending, the distribution of this funding is as follows: \$238,500 for Court Visitors; \$60,400 for Mediators; and \$47,600 for Interpreters. The court system will adjust this forecasted funding distribution as the fiscal year progresses. The increase for the Mediators was to better align amounts paid for this professional service with the amounts paid to court-appointed attorneys. The court system is hopeful that the current pool of mediators will accept increased hours after the increase. The increased rate for Interpreters was requested to address inflation. Recruitments following the Court Visitors rate increase have yielded larger applicant pools. Prior to the pay increase and during the last two fiscal years, 24 Court Visitors stopped accepting contract work. Since the rate increase six months ago, the program has lost only one Visitor who accepted employment with a federal agency.				
3	Alaska Court System / Trial Courts	New Positions for Monitoring Guardianship Appointments - Education and Supportive Help for Guardians	\$417.0 Gen Fund (UGF) 3 PFT Positions Inc	With the expansion of the original pilot project, how many positions in total are there for guardianship monitoring? Have these three additional positions been recruited and filled? Please provide details of progress and hiring dates for the new positions.

Judiciary
FY25 Midyear Status Report

Item No.	Appropriation / Allocation	Description	Amount / Fund Source	LFD Questions
Agency Response The Guardianship Monitoring program was initiated with federal grant funds. The grant funding is fully expended and this authorized FY2025 funding pays for one formerly grant-funded guardianship monitor and two new positions. The two new positions were filled on 9/30/24 and 10/23/24. The new employees are in the processing of completing their training. All three monitoring positions will continue to address the backlog of the monitoring work and will expand monitoring into areas of the state which have not received comprehensive monitoring services.				
4	Alaska Court System / Trial Courts	New Position to Review Office of Public Advocacy (OPA) Appointments (FY 25-27)	\$139.0 Gen Fund (UGF) 1 PFT Position IncT	Has this new position been recruited for and filled? Please provide details of progress and the hiring date.
Agency Response This three-year position special project monitor was hired on 12/2/2024. Training has commenced with plans to begin working with OPA in January 2025 to address the challenges of having an insufficient number of public guardians and to discuss proposed operational changes within OPA to streamline guardianship work. This position is located in Kenai and will serve the communities of Kenai, Homer, and Seward - communities for which there is an insufficiency of available guardianship services.				
5	FY24/25 Capital	Palmer Courthouse Expansion	\$7,200.0 Gen Fund (UGF)	A total of \$7.2 million was appropriated for the courthouse expansion between the FY24 supplemental and FY25 capital budgets. What will this amount of funding accomplish toward a much larger outlined (\$35.7 million) project? Will this project be phased and additional funding be required? What is the timeline for completion?
Agency Response The \$7.2 million will be used to fund the estimated costs for the full project's design work (\$3.57 million); the site work (\$1.62 million); the utilities infrastructure (\$1.06 million); permitting (\$0.5 million); and, project contingency funding (\$0.45 million). The court system will request the balance of funding required for project construction over two additional phases in FY2026 and FY2027. Because the court system has not yet received funding for all phases of the project, a projected timeline for completion cannot be determined with certainty. If full funding for phase two and three is received in FY2026 and FY2027, the estimated construction timeline is 3.5 to 4.0 years.				

Legislative Fiscal Analyst's Overview of the Governor's FY2026 Request

2025 Legislature - Operating Budget
Allocation Summary - Governor Structure

Numbers and Language
Agencies: Judiciary

Allocation	[1] 25Enroll	[2] 25Auth	[3] 25MgtPln	[4] AdjBase	[5] Gov	[5] - [3] 25MgtPln to Gov	[5] - [4] AdjBase to Gov
Judiciary							
Alaska Court System							
Appellate Courts	9,192.2	9,833.5	9,833.5	10,151.2	10,151.2	317.7 3.2 %	0.0
Trial Courts	112,657.3	118,712.7	118,712.7	122,195.9	123,124.7	4,412.0 3.7 %	928.8 0.8 %
Administration and Support	13,178.5	14,089.5	14,089.5	14,682.7	14,682.7	593.2 4.2 %	0.0
Appropriation Total	135,028.0	142,635.7	142,635.7	147,029.8	147,958.6	5,322.9 3.7 %	928.8 0.6 %
Therapeutic Courts							
Therapeutic Courts	8,690.5	8,814.3	8,814.3	8,817.4	9,139.3	325.0 3.7 %	321.9 3.7 %
Appropriation Total	8,690.5	8,814.3	8,814.3	8,817.4	9,139.3	325.0 3.7 %	321.9 3.7 %
Commission on Judicial Conduct							
Commission on Judicial Conduct	521.6	546.2	546.2	569.4	613.9	67.7 12.4 %	44.5 7.8 %
Appropriation Total	521.6	546.2	546.2	569.4	613.9	67.7 12.4 %	44.5 7.8 %
Judicial Council							
Judicial Council	1,549.1	1,629.6	1,629.6	1,675.9	1,675.9	46.3 2.8 %	0.0
Appropriation Total	1,549.1	1,629.6	1,629.6	1,675.9	1,675.9	46.3 2.8 %	0.0
Judiciary Unallocated							
Agency Unallocated	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Appropriation Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Agency Total	145,789.2	153,625.8	153,625.8	158,092.5	159,387.7	5,761.9 3.8 %	1,295.2 0.8 %
Statewide Total	145,789.2	153,625.8	153,625.8	158,092.5	159,387.7	5,761.9 3.8 %	1,295.2 0.8 %
Funding Summary							
Unrestricted General (UGF)	140,935.9	148,772.5	148,772.5	153,337.5	154,354.4	5,581.9 3.8 %	1,016.9 0.7 %
Designated General (DGF)	518.0	518.0	518.0	518.0	518.0	0.0	0.0
Other State Funds (Other)	2,530.0	2,530.0	2,530.0	2,431.7	2,710.0	180.0 7.1 %	278.3 11.4 %
Federal Receipts (Fed)	1,805.3	1,805.3	1,805.3	1,805.3	1,805.3	0.0	0.0

FY26 Proposed Budget Items

Judiciary

FY26 - Summary of Significant Operating Budget Issues (\$ thousands)

Item	Appropriation / Allocation	Description	Amount / Fund Source	Comment
1	Alaska Court System / Trial Courts	Increased Maintenance and Operating Expenses for Trial Court Facilities	\$363.5 Gen Fund (UGF) Inc	This Increment includes funding for the Utqiagvik lease renewal which is increasing by \$250.0, from \$450.0 to \$700.0 per year. This lease has been active since 2000 with minimal modifications to total cost. The leased building used by the Court in Utqiagvik prior to 2000 was over \$700.0 per year. The remaining \$113.5 would be used to support increased costs of building maintenance services in Anchorage, Kenai, Fairbanks, and Palmer. These services are provided by the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.
2	Alaska Court System / Trial Courts	Funding to Address Increased Court Visitor Caseload and Backlog	\$365.3 Gen Fund (UGF) Inc	Court Visitors are investigators in guardianship and conservatorship cases who provide information to the judicial officer about the protected person's status regarding medical treatment, housing, education, and finances. In FY23, HB 155 transferred responsibility of the Court Visitor Program from the Office of Public Advocacy to the Alaska Court System, and transferred \$854.4 for Court Visitor contract costs. In addition, \$106.2 was appropriated for a new position to oversee the training, supervision, and scheduling of Court Visitors. In FY25, the legislature approved an Increment of \$127.4 to pay for contract rate increases and to address costs incurred by the program that were not covered by the funding transferred from the Office of Public Advocacy. The Court system has seen the total contracted hours for Court Visitors increase by 33 percent from FY23 to FY24, and they expect an additional 25 percent increase in contracted hours in FY25 based on year-to-date spending. They attribute the increase to the backlog of Court Visitor work and the increasing number of cases involving these protective proceedings. The Court System believes this can be absorbed in FY25 due to position vacancy savings and does not anticipate an FY25 supplemental, but additional funding is requested in FY26 in anticipation of reduced vacancy.

Judiciary

FY26 - Summary of Significant Operating Budget Issues (\$ thousands)

Item	Appropriation / Allocation	Description	Amount / Fund Source	Comment
3	Alaska Court System / Trial Courts	Add One Attorney Position to Support Access to Justice Initiatives Using Federal Funding from Child Support Services	\$200.0 I/A Rcpts (Other) 1 PFT Position Inc	This funding would add one Attorney position to expand the Early Resolution Project (ERP) into the Fairbanks area using federal pass-through funding from the Department of Family and Community Services, Child Support Services Division. The ERP project assists parties in same-day resolution of their cases with the support of volunteer (pro bono) attorneys. This program helps parties resolve their cases without going through a trial or through other lengthy court proceedings.
4	Alaska Court System / Trial Courts	Replace American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Revenue with Unrestricted General Funds	Net Zero \$10,586.3 Gen Fund (UGF) (\$10,586.3) ARPA Rev R (UGF) FndChg	This transaction would reverse the FY24 fund source change of UGF to federal ARPA relief funding that was used to replace lost UGF revenue. The FY24 budget utilized the remaining balance of these funds in the Trial Courts, however the transaction to replace the depleted fund source was omitted from the FY25 budget. This is a tracking code and this change has no fiscal impact. A related FY25 supplemental is anticipated in the Governor's Amended budget to reverse the fund sources.
5	Therapeutic Courts / Therapeutic Courts	MH Trust: Funding for Two Paralegals to Continue Centralized Competency Calendar Project Management (FY26-FY27)	\$158.3 MHTAAR (Other) IncT	This Increment extends funding for two paralegal positions to manage the Centralized Competency Calendar. This is the combination of a \$78.3 Temporary Increment (IncT) (FY20-FY25) that is removed in the FY26 Adjusted Base, and an 80.0 IncT (FY24-FY27) that is discontinued in the proposed budget. Items 5 and 6 are related.
6	Therapeutic Courts / Therapeutic Courts	Salary and Benefit Increases of the Two Paralegals for Centralized Competency Calendar Management	\$92.4 GF/MH (UGF) IncOTI	This one-time funding is requested to pay the increased costs of salaries and benefits for two paralegal positions who manage the Centralized Competency Calendar. The Court states that they have been absorbing cost increases for these positions using savings from vacant positions, but that vacancy has gone down and the costs cannot be absorbed in FY26. Fiscal Analyst Comment: This is a One-Time Increment but the related positions are part of a Temporary Increment that will run through FY27. The Legislature should consider aligning the timeframes of these items.

Judiciary

**FY26 - Summary of Significant Operating Budget Issues
(\$ thousands)**

Item	Appropriation / Allocation	Description	Amount / Fund Source	Comment
6	Therapeutic Courts / Therapeutic Courts	Salary and Benefit Increases of the Two Paralegals for Centralized Competency Calendar Management	\$92.4 GF/MH (UGF) IncOTI	(continued) Items 5 and 6 are related.
7	Therapeutic Courts / Therapeutic Courts	Salary Increases for Contracted Executive Branch Staff to Support Therapeutic Courts	\$170.1 GF/MH (UGF) Inc	Therapeutic Courts contract with a number of positions from the Department of Health's Division of Behavioral Health. In 2024, HB 268 (Ch. 7, SLA 2024) provided salary increases for certain State employees, and the Division of Behavioral Health was appropriated Interagency Receipt authority for the Department of Health to support these salary increases, however additional funds were not provided and the Courts had to absorb the cost increase in FY25.

2025 Legislature - Operating Budget Transaction Compare - Gov Amend Structure Between AdjBase+ and GovAmd

Numbers and Language
Differences
Agencies: Judiciary

Agency: Judiciary

Alaska Court System

Trial Courts

Increased Maintenance and Operating Expenses

for Trial Court Facilities

The trial courts conduct proceedings in 39 facilities across the state, which require funding for increased expenses for facility leases, utilities, and the increased cost for service contracts for janitorial, snowplowing, and facility maintenance.

The breakdown in costs is as follows:

\$250,000 for a renewed lease in Utqiagvik (formerly known as Barrow)
\$113,500 for a Service Level Agreement with the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to maintain court facilities in Anchorage, Kenai, Fairbanks, and Palmer.

1004 Gen Fund (UGF) 363.5

Funding to Address Increased Court Visitor

Caseload and Backlog

For FY2025, the trial courts received sufficient funding to align the base funding originally transferred from the Office of Public Advocacy (OPA) in FY2023 with the FY2023 actual costs incurred for the court visitor services and to increase the hourly rate for contracted court visitors by \$10.00. Due to the backlog of court visitor work and the increasing number of cases involving these protective proceedings, the number of court visitor hours paid in FY2024 totaled almost 7,200 additional hours (33 percent) over amounts billed in FY2023. This request would ensure sufficient funding to pay the recurring annual costs for these services.

1004 Gen Fund (UGF) 365.3

Add One Attorney Position to Support Access to

Justice Initiatives Using Federal Funding from

Child Support Services

Certain services provided through the Access to Justice Department are reimbursable from federal funding managed through the State of Alaska, Child Support Services Division. This funding will be used for an additional position to support Access to Justice initiatives, to expand the services available to individuals seeking assistance from the Family Law Self-Help Center, and to pay for contractual consulting services for the development of products and tools

1007 I/A Rcpts (Other) 200.0

Replace American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Revenue with Unrestricted General Funds

The state's allocation of federal receipts from sec. 9901, Subtitle M--Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 (P.L. 117-2) for the provision of government services is fully expended in FY2024. This request is to replace unavailable ARPA federal receipts with unrestricted General Funds (UGF).

1004 Gen Fund (UGF) 10,586.3

1271 ARPA Rev R (UGF) -10,586.3

* Allocation Difference *

** Appropriation Difference **

Column	Trans Type	Total Expenditure	Personal Services	Travel	Services	Commodities	Capital Outlay	Grants	Misc	PFT	PPT	TMP
GovAmd	Inc	363.5	0.0	0.0	363.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
GovAmd	Inc	365.3	0.0	0.0	365.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
GovAmd	Inc	200.0	162.7	0.0	37.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1	0	0
GovAmd	FndChg	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
928.8			162.7	0.0	766.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1	0	0
928.8			162.7	0.0	766.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1	0	0

2025 Legislature - Operating Budget Transaction Compare - Gov Amend Structure Between AdjBase+ and GovAmd

Numbers and Language
Differences
Agencies: Judiciary

Agency: Judiciary

	Column	Trans Type	Total Expenditure	Personal Services	Travel	Services	Commodities	Capital Outlay	Grants	Misc	PFT	PPT	TMP
Therapeutic Courts													
Therapeutic Courts													
Remove Out-Year Funding for MH Trust: Centralized Competency Calendar Paralegal - Statewide (FY24-FY27)	GovAmd	Dec	-18.9	-18.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Remove out-year funding for Statewide Centralized Competency Calendar Paralegal (FY24-FY27) that ended early. This reflects a change made by MHTA.													
1037 GF/MH (UGF)			-18.9										
Remove Out-Year Funding for MH Trust: Centralized Competency Calendar Paralegal - Statewide (FY24-FY27)	GovAmd	Dec	-80.0	-80.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Remove out-year funds for Statewide Centralized Competency Calendar Paralegal (FY24-FY27) that ended early. This reflects a change made by MHTA.													
1092 MHTAAR (Other)			-80.0										
MH Trust: Funding for Two Paralegals to Continue Centralized Competency Calendar Project Management (FY26-FY27)	GovAmd	IncT	158.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	158.3	0	0	0
This project will fund a paralegal to assist with the management, data collection, and tracking of the Third Judicial District's Centralized Competency Calendar, Fairbanks, and eventually statewide. This is critical to determining trends, identifying delays in evaluation and restoration orders, and recommending solutions. The Centralized Competency Calendar helps increase efficiency in competency proceedings and increases the promptness of orders for evaluation transmitted to the Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API). For Trust beneficiaries, this project can decrease the time they spend incarcerated. This specialized court calendar tracks all criminal cases where the court has ordered a legal competency evaluation and, when appropriate, competency restoration.													
1092 MHTAAR (Other)			158.3										
Salary and Benefit Increases of the Two Paralegals for Centralized Competency Calendar Management	GovAmd	IncOTI	92.4	92.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority supports continuation funding of \$158,300 for a Centralized Anchorage-based Competency Calendar position and a Statewide Competency Calendar position. The funding for these positions has remained the same since FY2023. With recent salary increases, retirement benefit increases, and healthcare cost increases, the court system is requesting one-time UGF funding of \$92,400 to pay the balance of the increased costs for these two positions.													
1037 GF/MH (UGF)			92.4										
Salary Increases for Contracted Executive Branch Staff to Support Therapeutic Courts	GovAmd	Inc	170.1	0.0	0.0	170.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
More than half of the staff working with the Therapeutic Courts are contracted executive branch employees. The court system pays for the services provided by these positions through Reimbursable Services Agreements (RSAs). For FY2025, certain staff working in the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) were approved for salary increases. Funds received for these salary increases, and the related benefits (health insurance and PERS), will be transferred to DBH from the court system through RSAs. Funding for these contracted position costs was not included in the amounts authorized for the Therapeutic Courts through Senate Bill 259.													
1037 GF/MH (UGF)			170.1										
* Allocation Difference *													
** Appropriation Difference **													
			321.9	-6.5	0.0	170.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	158.3	0	0	0
			321.9	-6.5	0.0	170.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	158.3	0	0	0

Numbers and Language Differences
Agencies: Judiciary

Commission on Judicial Conduct

training conference.

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401
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Column Definitions

AdjBase+ (AdjBase+) - FY26 Adjusted Base plus University structural transfers received with the February 19, 2025 Governor's Amended operating request.

GovAmd (Governors Amended Budget) - Governor's operating budget request plus all amendments received by the statutory deadline of February 19, 2025.

Intent Responses

JUDICIARY

50. Alaska Court System / Trial Courts **Operating/Capital Budget (CCS HB 268 (Corrected))**

It is the intent of the legislature that Judicial Officers take every reasonable action to work through the criminal case backlog with expediency.

The Judicial Branch as a whole, and trial judges who handle criminal cases in particular, are and have been highly motivated to move all criminal cases forward from initial filing by the prosecutor to full disposition as quickly and as efficiently as due process allows. Because jury trials were temporarily halted during the COVID-19 pandemic, and because the agencies then struggled to retain enough experienced attorneys to handle the excess criminal matters that would have otherwise proceeded, an unsatisfactory number of criminal cases are pending without yet reaching resolution.

In the last several years, with the guidance of the Supreme Court, the court system has taken a number of concrete steps intended to shorten the time that a criminal case takes to resolve, and thus to reduce the backlog. Moving criminal cases forward more rapidly is a major focus for the Criminal Justice Working Group, which has as members the Chief Justice, court administrators, the Attorney General, the Public Defender, and numerous others who recognize that faster case processing benefits everyone involved in the justice system. Specific changes that we have adopted include:

- Recognizing that delays are very often due to agency attorneys seeking a “continuance,” or postponement of a deadline or of a hearing, the Supreme Court and presiding judges have issued directives and orders about limiting the number and length of continuances that can be granted.
- Trial courts are using “trailing calendars” more routinely, meaning that multiple trials are scheduled to begin the same day, because experience tells us that trials very often fold on the trial date, and the court system wants another to be ready to go immediately when that happens.
- The court system is looking more carefully at pre-trial conferences and hearings in criminal cases to try to make each hearing meaningful and to minimize repetitive hearings where little forward progress is made.
- The court system has a policy providing that if the prosecutor and the defense attorney are ready to bring a criminal case to trial, then a judge will always be available for that trial. When necessary to adhere to this policy (because, for example, a particular judge has two trials scheduled to proceed on a particular day), the court system calls retired judges back to service to preside over a case that is ready. In other words, criminal cases are never slowed down due to judge unavailability for trial.

The steps outlined above, along with the Judiciary’s ongoing focus on reducing the time to resolve criminal cases, help ensure that the court system is avoiding unnecessary delays and working through the pending case load efficiently and expediently. And as the Supreme Court, trial judges, court administrators, agency attorneys, and others identify additional steps that could

increase criminal case processing efficiency and speed, the court system will certainly explore those options and continue efforts to reduce that backlog.